

## Claims

- [001] A method for controlling the disclosure time of information by a publisher (10) to one or more recipients (31) comprising: a trusted body (30) generating an asymmetrical key pair for a specified date and time of disclosure with an encryption key (32) and a decryption key (34); the trusted body (30) providing a digital certificate (20) signed with a private key (26) of the trusted body (30) providing the publisher (10) with the encryption key (32) prior to the specified date and time; the publisher (10) using the encryption key (32) to encrypt data (15); the recipient (31) obtaining the encrypted data (15); and the trusted body (30) making the decryption key (34) available to the recipient (31) at the specified date and time.
- [002] A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the publisher (31) verifies the signature (25) on the digital certificate (20) with the public key of the trusted body (30).
- [003] A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the encryption key (32) is a public key and the decryption key (34) is a private key in a public key infrastructure.
- [004] A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the trusted body (30) creates an asymmetrical key pair for a specified date and time on demand from a publisher (10).
- [005] A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the trusted body (30) generates one key pair for a specified date and time.
- [006] A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the trusted body (30) generates one or more key pairs for a specified date and time, generating a new key pair for each of a plurality of publishers (10).
- [007] A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein each of the one or more publishers (10) has a password (50) issued by the trusted body (30) for preventing disclosure of the decryption key (34).
- [008] A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the decryption key (34) is encrypted with a public key (55) and only recipients (31) with the corresponding private key (53) can obtain the decryption key (34).
- [009] A system for controlling the disclosure time of information comprising: a publisher (10); a trusted body (30); an asymmetrical key pair for a specified date and time of disclosure with an encryption key (32) and a decryption key (34); a digital certificate (20) signed with a private key (26) of the trusted body (30) providing the publisher (10) with the encryption key (32) prior to the specified date and time; and means for making the decryption key (34) available at the specified date and time.

- [010] A system as claimed in claim 9, including one or more recipients (31) with means for obtaining data (15) encrypted with the encryption key (32) from the publisher (10) prior to the specified date and time and means for obtaining the decryption key (34) at or after the specified date and time.
- [011] A system as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the certificate (20) includes the specified date and time, the encryption key value (32), and the name of the trusted body (30).
- [012] A system as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the encryption key (32) is a public key and the decryption key (34) is a private key in a public key infrastructure.
- [013] A system as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein there is a single key pair for a specified date and time.
- [014] A system as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein there is a plurality of publishers (10) and one or more key pairs for a specified date and time, a different key pair for each of the plurality of publishers (10) for the specified date and time.
- [015] A system as claimed in claim 14, wherein each of the plurality of publishers (10) has a password (50) issued by the trusted body (30) for preventing disclosure of the decryption key (34).
- [016] A system as claimed in any one claims 9 to 15, wherein the decryption key (34) is encrypted with a public key (55) and only recipients (31) with the corresponding private key (53) can obtain the decryption key (34).
- [017] A system as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 16, wherein the trusted body (30) has one or more agents who act on behalf of the trusted body (30).
- [018] A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein an agent for the trusted body (30) is a smart card having an internal clock for providing the decryption key (34) to a recipient (31).
- [019] A system as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 18, wherein the trusted body (30) is accessible by the publisher (10) and the recipients (31) via a communication network.
- [020] A method for controlling the disclosure time of information by a publisher (10) to one or more recipients (31) comprising: a trusted body (30) generating an asymmetrical key pair for a specified date and time of disclosure with an encryption key (32) and a decryption key (34); the trusted body (30) providing the publisher (10) with the encryption key (32) prior to the specified date and time; the publisher (10) using the encryption key (32) to encrypt data (15); the recipient (31) obtaining the encrypted data (15); and the trusted body (30) making the decryption key (34) available to the recipient (31) at the specified

date and time; wherein the trusted body (30) generates one or more key pairs for a specified date and time, generating a new key pair for each of a plurality of publishers (10).

- [021] A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein each of a plurality of publishers (10) has a password (50) issued by the trusted body (30) for preventing disclosure of the decryption key (34) for a specified date and time for that publisher (10).
- [022] A method as claimed in claim 20 or claim 21, wherein the decryption key (34) is encrypted with a public key (55) and only recipients (31) with the corresponding private key (53) can obtain the decryption key (34).
- [023] A computer program product directly loadable into the internal memory of a digital computer, comprising software code portions for performing the steps of any one of claim 1 20 to claim 8 22 when said product is run on a computer.
- [024] An information distributing service for controlling the disclosure time of information by a publisher (10) to one or more recipients (31) comprising: a trusted body (30) generating an asymmetrical key pair for a specified date and time of disclosure with an encryption key (32) and a decryption key (34); the trusted body (30) providing a digital certificate (20) signed with a private key (26) of the trusted body (30) providing the publisher (10) with the encryption key (32) prior to the specified date and time; the publisher (10) using the encryption key (32) to encrypt data (15); the recipient (31) obtaining the encrypted data (15); and the trusted body (30) making the decryption key (34) available to the recipient (31) at the specified date and time.